

**TOWN OF LUNENBURG
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER**



Heather R. Lemieux
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update
January 12, 2021

UPDATES FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Here are a number of updates specific to Lunenburg that will also be posted on the town website, town Facebook page, the “townwide” listserv, sent to the Lunenburg Ledger and to Public Access:

COVID-19 in Lunenburg:

The Board of Health issued their weekly update and the cumulative laboratory confirmed number of COVID-19 cases reported to the Town is 418 as of January 8th and one death. The State report shows 394 as of January 5th. This is an increase of 37 cases from the previous week. The COVID-19 Information Center page can be found [here](#).

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT:

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. A comprehensive list of emergency orders and guidance is available at mass.gov/covid19 (click [here](#)).

COVID-19 in Massachusetts (as of 1/7/21):

As of January 7th there are 393,188 COVID-19 cases and 12,634 deaths and 11,417,197 patients have been tested to date by the MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

This information is now posted on the Department of Public Health COVID-19 website, with a breakdown of coronavirus cases by city and town. The page can be accessed by going to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-cases-by-city/town->. The Department of Public Health has created a dashboard as well with comprehensive, detailed COVID-19 data, including trend data, case rates, testing, and breakdowns by age, sex, race, ethnicity and geography. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard->

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

New Grant Program Accepting Applications

In addition to providing grants to businesses within the existing pool of applications for the Small Business Grant Program, applications are now being accepted for a new [Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program](#) that targets industries experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue. Industries given preference in this new program include:

- ☐ Restaurants, bars, caterers, and food trucks
- ☐ Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
- ☐ Gyms and fitness centers
- ☐ Event-support companies (photographers, videographers, etc.)
- ☐ Personal services (nail salons, barbershops, independent pharmacies, etc.)
- ☐ Independent retailers

This new business relief program will offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations.

The online application portal for the new program opened on December 31, and will close on Friday, January 15. Awards are expected to be announced in February.

Program details, application instructions, eligibility and documentation requirements, and more are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

Information on Vaccination:

Information on vaccination can be found on the state website at: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-in-massachusetts>

The Administration, through the COVID-19 Command Center and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, has worked with first responder organizations and departments about the best ways to vaccinate first responders effectively and safely. Based on these conversations, the Commonwealth has announced three options for first responder vaccinations:

1. Qualifying departments may request vaccines to be administered on-site. Departments that would like to vaccinate their own first responder staff [must follow the guidance for the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) (MCVP) and have the capacity to vaccinate 200 individuals.
2. First responders can schedule an appointment at a first responder vaccination site. [View a list of locations here.](#)
3. Mass vaccination sites will also be available for first responders to access the vaccine, which will be launched by the Commonwealth in the coming weeks.

First responder departments and organizations can visit www.mass.gov/firstrespondervaccine to learn more about these options.

Vaccine Phase 2 Priority Group Adjustment: The Commonwealth has updated its Vaccine Distribution plan. Based on this recommendation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory group, they are updating prioritization so that individuals age 75+ are included in Phase 2, Group 1,

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

along with individuals of all ages with 2+ comorbidities. This follows revised recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) issued on December 22. Following the ACIP change, the Commonwealth's COVID-19 Advisory Group convened December 23 and 30 to discuss any changes to its previous recommendations were warranted. The Group came to consensus on a single change to the current recommendations, taking into particular consideration ACIP's highlighting of individuals age 75 and older as being at particular risk of serious complications of COVID-19.

The revised vaccine distribution timeline will be reflected on www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.

Extension of Gathering and Capacity Limits

On January 7th, the Administration announced that the industry restrictions for capacity limits and reduced gathering limits that went into effect on Saturday, December 26th will be extended for at least two more weeks to January 24th.

Capacity Limits: Under the current restrictions that are being extended today, most industries in Massachusetts remain subject to a 25% capacity limit:

- ☐ Restaurants (based on permitted seating capacity)
- ☐ Close Contact Personal Services
- ☐ Theaters and Performance Venues
- ☐ Casinos
- ☐ Office Spaces

- ☐ Places of Worship
- ☐ Retail Businesses
- ☐ Driving and Flight Schools
- ☐ Golf Facilities (for indoor spaces)
- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ Lodging (for common areas)
- ☐ Arcades and Indoor Recreation Businesses
- ☐ Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- ☐ Museums, Cultural Facilities and Guided Tours
- ☐ Workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants, places of worship, close contact personal services, and retail businesses.



All other rules and restrictions in each sector-specific guidance will continue to remain in effect.

Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits has been extended as well. Indoor gatherings will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

Weekly Public Health Report:

The Command Center will release the [Weekly Public Health Report, with town by town information, including the weekly listing of city and town risk levels](#) on Thursday, 1/7. The

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

report will also include granular information on cases by county, biweekly testing rates, contact tracing information (including active COVID cluster information by Exposure Setting Type), hospitalization data, race and ethnicity data, information about cases in long term care facilities, and PPE distribution data.

Interactive COVID-19 Dashboard Launched

The new interactive COVID-19 dashboard contains all the data elements of the current daily dashboard in addition to some of the elements from the weekly dashboard, such as the positivity rate and the testing rate for cities and towns. This interactive feature will allow users to view all the data points from the daily dashboard and several from the weekly dashboard live on the website, with an added ability to customize the data view.

For example, users may explore data by focusing on certain data points or a specific period of time.

New interactive features offer the ability for users to:

- ☐ select specific timeframes through a date filter
- ☐ hover over certain sections for further explanation and more details
- ☐ view specific information like the positivity rate and the testing rate for different cities and towns by both map and bar chart

While the new interactive format has been designed to improve the user experience, the many data points currently being reported remain the same, including:

- ☐ COVID-19 overview and trends
- ☐ cases, testing, hospitalization, and deaths
- ☐ higher education and long term care facility data
- ☐ breakdowns by city and town

The new dashboard, powered by Tableau, will be available on the current webpage at www.mass.gov/covid19.

The Commonwealth's latest weekly [vaccination dashboard](#) was posted today. It includes doses of vaccine shipped and administered; people vaccinated; and vaccine distribution by county, age, race, ethnicity breakdowns.

Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)
- Apply for jobs at COVID-19 Alternate Care Sites:
 - o UMassMemorialResponds.com
 - o LowellGeneralResponds.com
- [Public Messaging Resources for Municipalities & Businesses](#)
- Mass.gov/findfoodhelp
- [Stop the Spread](#)
- HandHoldMA.org
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- Mass.Gov/covid19
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)